



PATENT  
1921-0129P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Tsuneo SAKAMOTO et al. Conf.: 1978  
Serial No.: 09/726,574 Group: 2863  
Filed: December 1, 2000 Examiner: S. CHERRY  
For: METHOD FOR MONITORING OPERATION OF THERMAL DEVICE  
AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

RECEIVED  
MAR 25 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 24, 2003

Sir:

Preliminary to any action on the above-identified application, Applicants herewith make the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 on March 19, 2003. Applicants are herewith making further remarks in support of the Amendment of February 19, 2003, which was entered by way of the RCE papers.

Applicants wish to make further comments regarding the term "control step" that has been utilized in the application and the claims. This term was discussed with Examiner Cherry during a telephone conversation on March 4, 2003.

Applicants wish to point out that this term is discussed in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 and in the paragraph starting on page 17, line 6. In the earlier paragraph, a listing of some of the control steps is found on page 8, line 1. Likewise, a listing occurs on page 17, line 11.